

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 7, July 2010

Copies of the articles listed in Article Alert are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 4) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you at no cost.

JOURNEY INTO AMERICA: THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAM

INTRODUCTION

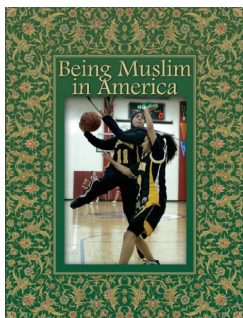


Journey into America covers the diversity of America's Muslim community.

Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam is the story of Ahmed and five of his students as they traverse the country, as well as the stories they uncover in conversations with Muslim Americans at more than 100 mosques in 70 cities and towns. What they create is a varied portrait of America's several-million-strong Muslim community.

For details, please visit <http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2010/July/20100723164404kcsniggi0.6870233.html?CP.rss=true>

E-Journal: Being Muslim in America



The young women pictured on our cover are both Muslim. They live near Detroit, Michigan, in a community with many Arab-American residents. They - along with the other men, women, and children in this publication - demonstrate every day what it is

like to be Muslim in America. HTML and PDF format is available at <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/being-muslim-in-america.html>

Photo Gallery: Muslims in America: 1619-1934

Muslims in America: 1619-1934 is adapted from the U.S. Department of State's publication *Being Muslim in America*. It documents important historic milestones for Muslims in America, beginning in the 17th century and continuing through 1934, when the first building built specifically to be a mosque was established. Link at http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/4110/muslims_timeline/



Photo Gallery: Muslims in America: 1957-2007

Muslims in America: 1957-2007 is adapted from the U.S. Department of State's publication *Being Muslim in America*. It documents important historic milestones for Muslims in America since 1957, beginning with the dedication of the Islamic Center of Washington, which was attended by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and first lady Mamie Eisenhower. Link at http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/muslim_1957-07/



About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Inside this issue:

Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam	P. 1
Democracy and Global Issues	P. 2
Economic Security	P. 2
International Security	P. 3
U.S. Society & Values	P. 3
Expert Debate	P. 3

ARTICLE ALERT



DOING BUSINESS IN INDONESIA

The U.S. Commercial Center of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is pleased to assist Indonesian companies in building relationships with American exporters and partners.

How we help Indonesian companies?

- Invest in America
- Featured U.S. Exporters
- U.S. Commercial Service Directory Representative
- Business Support Provider
- Commercial News USA
- U.S. Companies are Seeking Indonesia Partner
- USCC Facilities

Please find details information on U.S. Commercial Center at <http://www.buyusa.gov/indonesia/id/>



DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Holland, Jennifer S. **COUNTING CRANES** (National Geographic, June 2010)

Experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service have been collaborating on saving the whooping crane; they are worried about the cranes' future, whose numbers have recently dwindled, after a resurgence. Numbering only a few hundred, they

are threatened by habitat degradation, power lines, and natural predators. Breeding them in captivity and reintroducing the birds into the wild has boosted their numbers, but it is a fragile success. Currently available online at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/06/whooping-cranes/holland-text>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

2. Davies, Iwan **DOES THE FINANCIAL CRISIS THREATEN DEMOCRACY?** (SAIS Review, vol. 30, no. 1, Winter-Spring 2010, pp. 165-173)

The author, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, believes that as government stimulus packages taper off, there will be concerns on whether the world economy will enter a period of sustained recovery, or whether the wounds are deeper than anticipated. Should the crisis not abate quickly, governments already struggling under the weight of excessive spending and decreased revenues will have limited policy options. This will create challenges for governments in many developing countries where economic growth is a key source of political legitimacy. Could the current or future economic crises lead newer democracies back down the road to authoritarianism? Will growing authoritarian states, such as Iran, Russia or China, come under increasing pressure to democratize? The author seeks to answer these questions by exploring the economic effects of the financial crisis and the potential impacts on political stability in developing countries.

3. Gertner, Jon **THE RISE AND FALL OF THE G.D.P.** (New York Times Magazine, May 16, 2010, pp. 60//71)

Economists and even governments now claim there might be better ways to take measure of a country's health and happiness than its G.D.P. (gross domestic product), defined as the total value, or index, of a nation's output, income, or expenditure produced within its physical boundaries. By various measures, the United

States alone accounts for 20 to 30 percent of world G.D.P. It has been a difficult few years for G.D.P. which has not only failed to capture the well-being of current society, but has also skewed global political objectives toward the single-minded pursuit of economic growth, and it has been actively challenged by a variety of world leaders, especially in Europe, and by a number of international groups, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/magazine/16GDP-t.html>

4. Poole, William **A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND FINANCIAL REFORM** (SAIS Review, vol. 30, no. 1, Winter-Spring 2010, pp. 17-26)

The author, a Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute and a scholar in residence at the University of Delaware, believes that the pre-crisis financial environment was close to a libertarian's ideal, although it might not have seemed so at the time. He notes that the basic function of sound government in a modern economy is important and that conditions must be put in place to reduce the risk of financial crisis. Two such rules would be a subordinated debt requirement for banks and the end of tax incentives for households and businesses to accumulate debt. Given current directions it will take painful future events to persuade Congress to adopt more market-friendly approaches. Poole notes that how these events will play out is highly uncertain, but that most surprises will unfortunately be unhappy ones.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5. Goldsmith, Jack **THE NEW VULNERABILITY** (New Republic, vol. 241, no. 4885, June 24, 2010, pp. 21-28)

Cyber thefts, attacks and espionage by criminal organizations and foreign states have been growing at an unprecedented rate, and while the problem is largely invisible to the general public, the government is alarmed. The extraordinary complexity of computer systems and the insufficiently secure private-sector infrastructure is a huge vulnerability for a country heavily dependent on computer technology. Goldsmith takes issue with some of Clarke's conclusions, noting that, while Clarke may be right to worry

about China preparing for cyber war, China's dependency on a functioning U.S. economy greatly reduces the credibility of that threat. Goldsmith views Clarke's proposal for an international cyber-arms control agreement as unrealistic, since any given country views its own cybersnooping as benign, but not if done by an adversary, and origination of cyber attacks can be almost impossible to determine. While no catastrophic cyber event has yet occurred, Goldsmith notes that warnings by the man who repeatedly "cried wolf" about the looming terror threat before Sept. 11 should be heeded.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

6. Goff, Steven **WORLD CUP 2010: AMERICAN FANS WILL HAVE POWER IN NUMBERS** (Washington Post, June 8, 2010)

As the world watches the World Cup this summer, the country with the largest number of fans in the stands (except for South Africa) will come not from traditional soccer strongholds but from the United States; U.S. residents purchased more than 130,000 out of 2.8 million tickets sold. The author notes that they are not necessarily coming to root for the U.S. team; given the broad ethnic makeup of the U.S., many fans will support teams from Mexico, Honduras or other Latin American countries. Goff notes that there is still a perception in the U.S. that soccer is still the sport of Spanish-speaking Americans. Says Goff, the huge number of tickets sold says a lot about the growth in the popularity of the sport in the U.S.

7. Madoff, Ray **DEAD RIGHT** (Boston College Magazine, vol. 70, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 26-31)

In America, the living aren't always in charge. In recent years, the right of publicity and copy-right law have grown, providing posthumous protections never before seen. They are part of a trend in which Americans have been granted ever greater rights to control their property interests after death. In the seven weeks after Michael Jackson's death in June

2009, the star's estate reportedly earned \$100 million from a film deal, a commemorative coin, a line of school supplies, and a \$150 coffee-table book; the estate was expected to earn another \$100 million by the end of 2009. The author notes that U.S. law has evolved a split personality — where reputation can be converted into property interests, the law grants greater rights to the deceased through their heirs; however, the deceased's estate has no rights to personal aspects of reputation such as defamation and privacy.

8. Rice, Andrew **PUTTING A PRICE ON WORDS** (New York Times Magazine, May 16, 2010, pp. 46-50, 52)

When news is search-driven, audience-targeted and everywhere, what's a story worth? As more users pick up their information from the Internet and other services that make news available even as it is happening, several large media companies are in bankruptcy, and old-fashioned newspapers and magazines mourn the loss of readers and circulation, other news outlets are still trying to prove that journalism is still a profit-making enterprise. Besides the print publications that offer free access to their online content, enterprising new sites, like Associated Content and Demand Media, generate content that feeds Google appetites and brings in huge advertising revenues. However, no one seems to know how to value the product anymore.



LET'S JOIN!

TOPIC 4: INTERNET CENSORSHIP

POINT: Brooklyn Law School professor Derek E. Bambauer argues that how laws are made affects their legitimacy.

AND

COUNTERPOINT: University of Chicago Law School professor Richard A. Epstein counters that morality is the same everywhere. Immoral laws should not be obeyed.

Please join the discussion at http://www.america.gov/e-exchange_internet.html

TOPIC 3: OPEN FORUM

PONT: Public policy expert Steve Hayward believes low-carbon development will impose economic burdens on those least able to afford them.

AND

COUNTERPOINT: Climate economist Gernot Wagner believes low-carbon development will create economic opportunities all over the world.

Please join and check-out our current discussion at http://www.america.gov/e-exchange_open.html

Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta Pusat 10110

Mailing Label

Phone: 021-350-8467
Fax: 021-350-8466
E-mail: ircjakarta@state.gov

ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM NO. 7, July 2010

Please write your complete name and address IN CAPITAL LETTERS, check (✓) the articles and send your request for July 2010 Article Alert items to the Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, before August 2010 via fax (021) 350-8466 or email (ircjakarta@state.gov)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

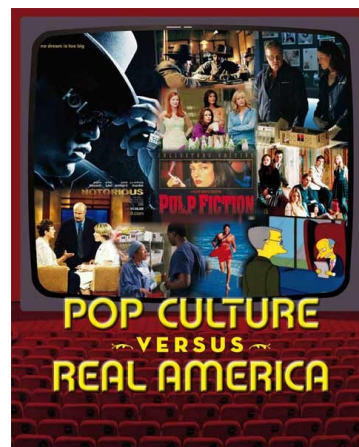
Postal Code: _____ Phone/HP/Fax: _____ Email: _____

1. () COUNTING CRANES
2. () DOES THE FINANCIAL CRISIS THREATEN DEMOCRACY?
3. () THE RISE AND FALL OF THE G.D.P.
4. () A LIBERTARIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND FINANCIAL REFORM
5. () THE NEW VULNERABILITY
6. () WORLD CUP 2010
7. () DEAD RIGHT
8. () PUTTING A PRICE ON WORDS

E-JOURNAL USA

- () BEING MUSLIM IN AMERICA
- () POP CULTURE VERSUS REAL AMERICA

Pop Culture versus Real America



June 2010

U.S. television and cinema promote images of Americans that are ... well ... wrong! Pop Culture versus Real America will contrast those pop culture images with profiles of real Americans in every walk of life.

HTML and PDF file is available online at
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/pop-culture-vs-real-america.html>